

ESTABLISHED 1857

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Mr. McKINLEY, the late chief engineer of the *Isla de Mindanao*, has given to the *Singapore Free Press* an account of the engagement, in which he gives the following as the Spanish vessels engaged:—

Reina Cristina, Isla de Luzon, Isla de Cuba, Castilla, Don Juan del Austria, Marquis del Duero, one other small gunboat similar to the *Duro*.

It will be observed that there are several discrepancies in these lists, the *Comercio's* giving two names not included in the other two, not to mention the "several more small vessels," while Admiral Dewey gives three names which do not appear in the *Comercio's* or Mr. McKINLEY's list. One of these is the *Mindanao*, and her omission is easily explained on the ground that she was not counted as a fighting ship, although not included in the list of the Spanish fleet, both the *Comercio* and Mr. McKINLEY mention her in their descriptions of the fight. Mr. McKINLEY, however, although he follows up his list with the remark "I may not have stated the ships accorded," was, by that very word, and not "other," going on to refer in his description to the burning of the *Ulloa*, a vessel not included in his list, and this slip may give rise to doubts as to whether he may not have made others. The *Comercio*, in its criticisms on our report of the battle, complains that we included in our list of Spanish vessels some which were not where near the scene of the conflict, such as the *Alavo, Elcano, Cebrin* and *Velasco*, of which have been discredited. For the sake of accuracy we place the correction on record, though it will be observed that of these vessels, the *Velasco*, is mentioned by Admiral Dewey as having been destroyed by his fleet. Our contemporaries also contradict the statement that the two torpedo boats on the Spanish side were themselves destroyed. On this point we are unable to give any explanation, several correspondents writing independently have made mention of the incident which it is now alleged never occurred, and it must be assumed that craft of so kind were seen which were honestly taken for torpedo boats.

With reference to the above defence silenced by the Americans a full translation of our contemporary's remarks may be found in effect:—"As to the formidable batteries which existed at Cavite, every one knows that at Punta Sangley there were only two Ordonoer cannon of 16 centimetres, one of which was rendered useless after the first of six discharges, not by the Yankee shot, but by causes with which they had nothing to do. There remained therefore only our gun, which continued to work until the place was evacuated when Artillery Lieutenant Valdesaga the gun and destroyed the ammunition retired with all his men, without a casualty. This, after having received a full fire of four Yankee vessels, was vainly tried to silence the battery. "I may say much in favour of the shooting of the Yankee artillery." On the other hand the *Baltimore* carries in her marks of the projectiles from the *Comercio's* battery, and that these did no more execution was not due to bad aim, but because the guns from which they were discharged were incapable of more. A hundred and thirty shots fired by the battery on that memorable morning, and with general applause, of a valiant officer of artillery and their men who served the guns have been posted for the Cross of San Fernando.

The *Comercio* also mentions the fact that the *Castilla* and *Don Antonio de Ulloa* were under disadvantages, the machinery of the former being in a bad condition and the second being under repair. It may be once admitted that the American force was much superior to the Spanish, but the opinion of experts well acquainted with the vessels of both squadrons, that the Spaniards were strong enough to have made the Americans pay somewhat dearly for their victory had the meeting place in open waters and the Spanish vessels been handled with ordinary skill. The Americans speak highly of the courage displayed by the Spaniards when they were forced upon them, but the question suggests itself, why did the Spaniards themselves to be taken in a corner to fight with and why had not the vessels in a serviceable condition been ready before the commencement of hostilities, or if that was impossible, why were they not left behind in the harbour while the others went out to meet the enemy. The American squadron had been lying for weeks in Hongkong and was known to all the world that it was intended to make a descent upon Cavite, or rather to search out the Spanish squadron the then pending difference between the two countries result in an open rupture. When the time came and the vessels of the Spanish Government had information of their departure, and from the *Comercio* gather that their approach to Manila signalled from Cape Bolinao. It was previously been announced by the Spaniards with a flourish of trumpets that they were going out to meet the enemy, but they did not do so, and finally allowed themselves to be caught in a position in which they were unable to manoeuvre. Why did the Spaniards lack the courage with which the Spaniards of old had prompted them to go to fight, the struggle might have had a different ending. It is improbable that the Spaniards with their inferior force could have achieved a victory—(though there are chances in war)—but it is almost certain that they could have inflicted damage upon the attacking force, and even less could not in any case have grown as regards the ships, though the crews would have had a less easy life had the fight taken place on Cavite Bay. The *Comercio* professes its sympathy for the Spaniards in the battle as follows:—"Spain loses a great number of more than vessels," "honour," said Mendez-Naranjo at the 2nd May, 1866, and thirty at the 1st June, 1866, and afterwards our navy with equal heroism a brilliant victory in the golden book of history." "our to the heroes who fell that day," "to all the valiant survivors of the

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DEATH OF PRINCE KUNG

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS"
SHANGHAI, 1st June]

Prince Kung died on Sunday.

[Prince Kung was an uncle of the Emperor of China and was for many years President of the Tsungli Yamen, from which he retired some years ago.]

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.
 SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."
 LONDON, 29th M.
THE SPANISH-MERICAN WAR.
 The Navy department at Washington received a telegram from Admiral Schley confirming the presence of the Spanish fleet at Santiago de Cuba. Admiral Schley's report is now blockading them.
 It is stated that Admiral Sampson's

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS

The E. A. steamer *Mesquit*, from S. &c., left Port Darwin yesterday morning this port.

The C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India* Vancouver for Hongkong and Austral on 30th May.

The N. Y. K. steamer *Mikasa Maru* (H. line), left Singapore for this port on 31st May.

Miss Ada Johnston, of Ballykilbeg, the
 daughter of Mr. William Johnston, M.P. for
 the well-known Orange leader, was received
 at the Catholic Church in Downpatrick on the
 10th April. Miss Johnston had been at
 Catholic services for some time past,
 conversion was not unexpected. She is
 to be a highly accomplished lady.

Swains	390,959	267,783	265,212
Cape Cod	439,872	422,438	383,919
Woods Hole	40,487	nil	nil
Samsui	3,167	nil	nil
Kongcong	4,501	nil	nil
Quint	7,839	nil	nil
Klungchee	34,277	\$6,625	21,221
Pachioi	42,008	51,764	25,454
Total	3,843,290	3,063,704	2,787,977
To this must be added—			
HsTsTs	1897	1897	1897
Kowloon	92,590	155,263	116,476
Leipa	118,659	118,591	118,591
Lungchow	41,876	871	11
Maingze	57,647	27,488	25,454
Samsui	19,748	nil	nil
Total	353,449	297,018	254,449
Total under the Forest Law, 1924—			
percentage receipts at the Hankow free trade zone			
percentage receipts at the Twenty-five regular ports were as follows, in twenty-five			
Import Duty	936,694	1,092	
Export Duty	1,041,286	1,092	
Cons Trade Duty	612,939	107	
Customs Duties	7,421,107	405	

Transit Dues	945.112	938.
Opium Likin		
Total.....	3,842,290.	3,935.

From a Scotch draper's assistant to British-General on the Staff through a campaign in a transition infelix. This is what has been effected by British-General Hector MacDonald, who, as an Inverness lad, was considered enough to relinquish his draper's yard-stick for the rifle of a private soldier, Enlistment in the Gordon Highlanders, he was sent to India, where he took part in the Affair

War of 1879. So well did he serve and so self in action, that, on the recommendation of Lord Roberts, a commission was bestowed upon the young sergeant. Since then his has been rapid, but he serves in all parts of the world, and by his sterling qualities has always attracted the favorable notice of his superiors. If there merit abounds for he has never possessed any particle of it—his has worked his way up from the low rung. General Sir Donald's career should be a valuable instrument in the hands of the young Department.

